

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 ACDA-07 /098 W

----- 052140

R 191504Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6217

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG LY

SUBJ: NO LET UP IN EGYPTIAN -LIBYAN TENSIONS

REF: CAIRO 11123 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EGYPTIANS CLOSE LIBYAN CONSULATE IN ALEXANDRIA
AND PEOPLES ASSEMBLY CALLS FOR RECONSIDERATION OF TIES. MORE
LIBYAN AGENTS ARRESTED, WHILE AL AND OAU REPORTEDLY BEGIN
INVESTIGATION OF LIBYAN ACTIVITIES IN SUDAN. PRESS RIDDLED WITH
HOSTILE ITEMS ON LIBYA. END SUMMARY

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2. MFA REQUESTED HEAD OF LIBYAN RELATIONS OFFICE AUGUST 18 TO CLOSE ALEXANDRIA BRANCH OFFICE (CONSULATE) AS SECURITY MEASURE "IN VIEW OF ATTEMPTS BY DEMONSTRATORS TO STORM OFFICE". ALEXANDRIAN CITIZENRY SAID TO BE ENRAGED BY LIBYAN TERRORISM. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY HAS CALLED FOR RECONSIDERATION OF TIES AND "OTHER AGREEMENTS" BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA. ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ATTACKED QADHAFI AND POINTED OUT ROLE OF "BIG POWER" BEHIND HIS ACTIONS.

3. DIRTY HALF DOZEN. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCES ARREST OF SIX MORE LIBYAN AGENTS IN SIWA OASIS. THEY ACCUSED OF PLANNING TO SEIZE SIWA AND WESTERN DESERT FOR ANNEXATION TO LIBYA. INTERIOR MINISTRY CLAIMS IT HAS PLAN FOR CONFRONTING SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS AND PAPERS CONTAIN MORE MINISTRY WARNINGS THAT CITIZENS SHOULD BE AWARE OF SUSPICIOUS PARCELS.

4. GUMHURRIYA FRONT-PAGE REPORT CLAIMS ARAB LEAGUE AND OAU HAVE SENT LETTERS TO MEMBERSHIP SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR "FACT -FINDING COMMITTEE" ON ABORTIVE LIBYAN INVASION OF SUDAN. PAPERS ALSO REPORT SUDANES FONMIN ANNOUNCED IMMINENT IMPLEMENTATION OF EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT. JOINT COMMISSION OF FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS DUE TO MEET WITHIN A WEEK, ALTHOUGH VENUE NOT YET DECIDED. PEOPLES ASSEMBLY RATIFIED EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE AGREEMENT AUGUST 18.

5. WITH INDIGNATION PAPERS REPORT KUWAITI CALL FOR RECONCILIATION WITH LIBYA AND EGYPTIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL FROM LIBYAN BORDER. AHAM AND AKHBAR BOTH FRONT PAGE REBUTTAL DESCRIBING IDEA S UNTHINKABLE. EGYPT CANNOT BE CALLED UPON TO WITHDRAW FORCES FROM HER OWN TERRITORY. PARTICULARLY FORCES WHICH PROTECT COUNTRY FROM INFILTRATING LIBYAN AGENTS AND SABOTEURS. CRIMES OF "MAD QADHAFI" RECOUNTED AND POSSIBILITY OF MEETING (FOR RECONCILIATION) WITH PERFIDIOUS QADHAFI UNTHINKABLE.

6. PRESS DID NOT MENTION BBC REPORT OF LIBYAN LETTER TO UNSC CLAIMING EGYPT PLANNING ASSASSINATION OF QADHAFI.

7. COMMENT: FOREIGN MINISTRY, INTERIOR MINISTRY AND PRESS ALL ACTIVELY KEEPING LIBYAN THREAT BEFORE POPULACE, CONTRIBUTING TO ALREADY PALPABLE PUBLIC APPREHENSION. EMBASSY HAD HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPORTS THAT POPULACE IN CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA ARE AVOIDING PUBLIC PLACES, SUCH AS MOVIES. KUWAITI CALL FOR RECONCILIATION MAY OR MAY NOT BE PERFUNCTORY BUT IT NOT WELL RECEIVED HERE AND MOST UNLIKELY TO RESULT IN EGYPTIAN RETHINKING.
EILTS

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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